



The National Association of
Government Guaranteed
Lenders, Inc.

The Honorable John Kerry
Chairman
Senate Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
428-A Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Bond
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
428-A Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kerry and Bond,

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders (NAGGL), SBA's 7(a) lending partners, thank you for your efforts to support capital access for small businesses, especially in this time of heightened need. In accordance with this need, NAGGL's leadership and membership fully endorses S. 1499, the "The American Small Business Emergency Relief and Recovery Act of 2001."

This bill's goal is to provide small businesses with the necessary financial assistance to spur them, and thus America's greater economy, to full recovery. It will do this by addressing the credit needs of a variety of small businesses, from those located at or near disaster sites, to the multitude of small businesses throughout the country that were indirectly impacted by the events of September 11, 2001.

Prior to September 11, there were already signs of a slowing economy and a tightening of credit underwriting standards by commercial lenders. Some small businesses were already facing difficulty in obtaining credit. The events of September 11th have only exacerbated these problems.

This is why the quick passage of S. 1499 is so important. This bill addresses the difficulties facing America's small business sector, and so we encourage your Senate colleagues to pass it expeditiously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony R. Wilkinson".

Anthony R. Wilkinson
NAGGL President & CEO